70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

# City of Barrie

## Final

## International Relations Committee

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025** | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
### For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on June 4, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw at 6:02 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

**Present:** 11 - Co-Chair – Councillor J. Harris
Co-Chair M. Sachkiw
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston
J. Babcock
T. Gardiner
C. Hassey
J. Massie
L. Palson
S. Scully-Pratt
K. Watson

**Absent:** 4 - W. Hay
A. Jones
J. M. Pigeon
B. Sergeant

**STAFF:**
Business Development Officer, N.Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

## SECTION "A"

### COMMITTEE BUDGET UPDATE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committee's budget.

### HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair, provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom. He acknowledged the Barrie Chamber of Commerce on the official launch of the twin-city exchange with the Harrogate Business Improvement District (BID), and the positive opportunities this could provide connecting businesses between the two cities.

### YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

Shannon Scully-Pratt outlined the draft letter for Murayama, Japan advising them of the changes to the Youth Ambassador Program.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program. Mr. Babcock advised that students in the Global Perspectives Program will be traveling to Zweibrucken, Germany, between May and June, 2025.

The Committee approved an expenditure from the International Relations Committee budget in the amount of $9,000.00 to cover costs associated with buses for the Global Perspectives Program.

**SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE**

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development, provided an update concerning the Saginaw Sister City Conference scheduled for fall, 2025. Ms. Schlichter indicated that the City does have some US travel restrictions at this time. The Committee discussed the current climate with the US, and the potential impact on the City's new sister city relationship with Saginaw, Michigan. The Committee provided feedback to Ms. Schlichter concerning the Saginaw Sister City Conference and received responses.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

## SECTION "B"

**SAGINAW SISTER CITY CONFERENCE**

That staff in the Economic and Creative Development Department be supported to attend the Saginaw Sister City Conference, fall 2025, subject to Mayor and CAO approval.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/04/2025.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

## SECTION "C"

**MURAYAMA, JAPAN UPDATE**

Tina Gardiner provided an update concerning Murayama, Japan, including the Emperor's Ball.

**ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE**

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning Zweibrucken, Germany. He advised that Jean Maurice Pigeon and Bill Sergeant are planning to meet with representatives of a German Hockey Team to discuss plans for their visit to Barrie in 2026. Mr. Sachkiw indicated that a tourist group from Germany has plans to travel to Barrie in September 2025.

**ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE**

There was no update provided concerning Arras, France.

**SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair discussed plans to recognize Sir Robert Barrie Day on June 7, 2025.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

CHAIRMAN